

PUBLIC HEALTH

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Notifiable Conditions, Chapter 246-101 WAC
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WA State Board of Health, 10/6/04



PUBLIC HEALTH AND NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS

- Collecting information on conditions of public health significance is a fundamental public health practice
- The principles and practices of this system have changed little over time



PUBLIC HEALTH AND NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS

- List of reportable conditions is dynamic
- Responsive to changes in public health practice, medical advances, and other factors



WASHINGTON STATE
Board of Health

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PUBLIC HEALTH AND NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS

- Historically focused on communicable diseases
- Expanded to include non-communicable diseases such as birth defects and blood lead levels



PUBLIC HEALTH AND NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS

- Reporting is mandated by state law
- Chapter 246-101 WAC describes how to report conditions and lists which conditions are reportable by whom



CHAPTER 246-101 WAC

- Significantly revised in July 2000
- Involved 150+ stakeholder meetings over a 2-year period
- Resulted in a new list of reportable conditions and new timelines for reporting
- Conditions were evaluated against a set of 12 criteria



PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

- Incidence
- Morbidity
- Mortality
- Communicability & potential for outbreaks
- Preventability/treatability
- Necessity for immediate public health response
- CSTE/CDC recommendations for reporting
- WHO class 1 disease
- Socioeconomic impact
- Agricultural impact
- Emergent condition
- Public health action



HOW CONDITIONS ARE ADDED

- By rule
 - SBOH adopts rules to add conditions to the list
- Provisional conditions
 - DOH requests that conditions be placed on the list for a period of 48 months, during which DOH collects information to evaluate whether or not the conditions should become permanently notifiable
- Emergency rule
 - DOH can add a condition to the list for 120 days via an emergency rule



POTENTIAL CHANGES

- Because notifiable conditions reporting is closely linked to public health practice and scope, the Board of Health should be prepared to respond to changing priorities and to consider and adopt changes to Chapter 246-101 WAC.



POTENTIAL CHANGES

- In November 2004 the Board will consider a rule revision to:
 - Make provisionally notifiable conditions permanently notifiable
 - Add 'arboviral diseases' to the list and remove 'encephalitis, viral'
 - Require laboratories to report hepatitis C and hepatitis B



POTENTIAL CHANGES

- In the upcoming months the Board might consider additional changes including:
 - Revising and updating language to improve clarity and accuracy
 - Adding a list of criteria by which to evaluate future candidates for the list of reportable conditions
 - Adding conditions

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